



MANDATORY KINDERGARTEN ATTENDANCE

LEVEL OF MATURITY WAIVERS

200 W. Baltimore Street ♦ Baltimore, MD 21201 ♦ Nancy S. Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools

Reviewed May 2001

Can the parents or legal guardians of a child who is age-eligible for kindergarten delay the child's entrance into kindergarten if they believe the child is not mature enough to attend?

Yes. State Board of Education regulations allow parents or legal guardians to submit a one-year level of maturity waiver for a kindergarten-age child if they believe that a delay in kindergarten attendance is in the best interest of their child. The child, however, must attend kindergarten the next year.

What must parents or legal guardians do to defer a child's kindergarten attendance for one year?

If a child's parents or legal guardians wish that kindergarten attendance be deferred for one year due to the child's level of maturity, they must do the following:

- ♦ File a written request with the local Superintendent of Schools before the opening of the school year in which the child becomes five years old, asking that enrollment be delayed due to the child's level of maturity; and
- ♦ Register the child for enrollment in kindergarten the following school year.

If parents or legal guardians decide that it is in the best interest of their child who is already enrolled in kindergarten to be withdrawn from the program, what must they do?

If parents or legal guardians feel that it is in the best interest of their child to be withdrawn from kindergarten, they must do the following:

- ♦ File a written request to withdraw the child from the program; and
- ♦ Register the child for enrollment in kindergarten the following school year.



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